



ALITIMES



December 23, 2005

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Bad wrists

Purchase of bracelets from the 5-6 Council is strongly encouraged; however, the bracelets are not authorized for wear while in any official uniform.

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Laugh out loud

The holiday play "The Plight Before Christmas" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday at the Big Top.



ALI TIMES

Vol. 3, Issue 49

Dec. 23, 2005

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Donald M. Palandech

Commander, 407th AEG

Lt. Col.

Gerald M. Perkins

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Different isn't so bad with so many good people

By Col. Don Palandech

407th Air Expeditionary Group commander

Our current living conditions (no snow, no fireplace, no mall) may not do much to inspire the holiday spirit. And there's no doubt that we're all too far from home, apart from spouses, children, extended families, and friends. But still I wake each late December morning with a spring in my step and a smile. It's the time of year that brings memories of my childhood, family times, and more recent joys with my wife, children and dog.

It's just that time of year.

What I mean to say is that for me, and hopefully for all of us, this time of year is special, no matter where we find ourselves.

Whichever faith you follow, whatever your traditions are at home; the special feelings of late December will fill you with the same joys as always, even though you're here—if you let them.

Families and friends at home will celebrate in anticipation of your safe homecoming. They will celebrate the spirit of the season like you—a little differently than what everybody's used to—but making the best of it nonetheless. They will have high hopes that you are making the best of your situation and enjoying times with new friends. And knowing that you are will give them comfort.

So, just as you are wishing only the best for those at home, don't forget that they are wishing just as hard for you.

Over the past couple of months each of you has help put together all the ingredients required for a beautiful Christmas in Bedrock: close friends, people to laugh and sing with, homemade goodies all around, caroling with fellow Airmen and



Col. Don Palandech

Coalition partners, worship services, a pair of holiday plays, and a feast at the dining facility Christmas Day.

To top it all off we'll ring in the New Year with a rockin' good time Casino Night and party Dec. 31.

Remember that this is a season of celebrations, and that you have real reasons to celebrate and be joyful while you're here. Iraq is quieter and more peaceful thanks to all you've done here. The citizens of this country have had a historical year and are on the road to becoming a free republic. And along the way you've joined a small segment of mankind who voluntarily spent part of their lives making the world better for millions of others.

What better gift could you give? What greater gift could your family and friends receive?

With all of this in mind, whatever your traditions, it's easy to catch some uplifting Christmas spirit. The feeling is contagious, and the cure is to spread it.

I only ask one thing of you as we enjoy the holidays with our extended family, the 407th Air Expeditionary Group: be ready to be a friend to somebody who looks like they need one.

From me and my family to you and yours, I wish only unlimited joy this season and beyond.

Happy Holidays. Grizzly One

Front Page photo

Logistics support for the Monday visit of Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne was provided by (left) Staff Sgt. Zach Terry and Senior Airman Brad Ponto.

Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase



Only words without the right attitude

By Master Sgt. Brian Rogers

407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron first sergeant

Other countries must wonder how the United States Air Force became the world's greatest air power relying solely on an all-volunteer force. Airmen don't earn a six-figure paycheck and incentives to excel can sometimes be more profitable in the civilian world. So what is it that produces this world class excellence? The answer is simple: it's you, the individual Airman.

Americans took actions based on their convictions to set this country in motion in 1776, and this same drive has resulted in the United States being the first and only nation to have stealth technology.

The commitment of today's Airman is the foundation of our core values. But the core values can't stand alone; they must be backed with the right attitude.

Attitude is what gives our core values meaning. For example, many Airmen have done well in realizing that *integrity first* is doing the right thing even when nobody is watching. This is correct, but if your attitude about the value is wrong then it isn't truly *your* value, you haven't internalized it. Attitude comes from the heart—never hesitating to do what is right; never even contemplating if you can get away

with something. The decision is automatic.

Your attitude toward integrity shows in everything you do: the way you wear your uniform tells how true you are to the profession of arms; courtesy to superiors, peers and subordinates tells your fellow Airmen that you are a professional. And professionals are those sought after to be leaders.

Your attitude toward integrity flows into the way you perceive and communicate your adherence to the *service before self* core value. Again, it's more than getting to work early, staying late or working a weekend: Anybody can work long hours. Differences in *service before self* show themselves in the attitude of an Airman: An Airman with an attitude truly reflecting *service before self* reports for work ready for the shift without dread or spite, accepting challenges with a warrior spirit and ready to overcome any obstacle to meet the mission. That's service before self.

Excellence in all we do is also driven by attitude. Doing a job the proper way isn't the same as excellence in all that we do. Doing



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Master Sgt. Brian Rogers

a job properly to avoid the negative consequences isn't at the heart of excellence. But an attitude toward excellence drives Airmen to do their best, to rise above the standard. These Airmen seek opportunities to improve processes and go out of their way to help other Airmen, peers and supervisors.

Air Force core values have produced amazing results. They have led us down the path that's made us the best of the best. Our air superiority is unprecedented. My challenge to you is to take the core values to heart, approach them with an attitude that tells those around you that they are you and everything you do is driven by a belief in them.

Your attitude toward the Air Force core values has the power to move the Air Force even further ahead to make tomorrow's even stronger than today's.

Did you see a photographer out and about?

For your viewing and sharing pleasure...

V:\Shared\Photographs\AEF 7&8

All images are available for download and use by you for any noncommercial purpose.

Redeployment Tip:

You may not want to carry it, but not everything is mailable. For example...

Air force "c" bag: a-3 bags, canister, m-8 paper, m-9 paper, chem gloves, hood, gas mask, overboots, decon kit 291, insect repellent, cotton inserts, waterproof bags, and overgarment decon kit m-295.

Back to basics, Christmas in the desert

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu

407th Air Expeditionary Group chaplain

A CNN/USA Today Gallup Poll released Tuesday revealed that 40 percent more Americans prefer a “Merry Christmas” greeting over “Happy holidays.” The number of people who said they use “Happy holidays” has dropped 12 percent, from 41 to 29 percent compared with the same period in 2004.

I remember when “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year” was just a natural way to greet people during the holidays. But this has changed in our world of political correctness, which isn’t necessarily the same as inclusiveness.

Political correctness surrounding Christmas has been nurtured by retailers and the result is that many have lost (or never learned) the meaning behind the celebration.

Respect and acceptance are values defined and defended by our Constitution. The United States has always held free exercise of religion as a human right.

But social problems begin when a person or group purposely undermines another’s religious belief through disparaging comments or claims that their religion is the only one— all must share this person’s faith or be damned. This kind of conviction crosses the boundary of human respect and freedom of religion. The social cycle inevitably includes those groups who will fight back and resist constraints imposed on them by the secularized society.

An example of this resistance is found outside a megachurch in Tampa, Fla., where a huge banner is posted. The big, bold

letters in red ink read: “To HELL with the word holiday. Put CHRIST back into Christmas.” The banner directs passersby to the church’s Web site, where they can link to an Internet petition that protests retailers’ exemption of the word “Christmas” in holiday merchandising.

I see two issues with this banner. First, the word hell: although is just an expression, it appears to be too vulgar next to Christ at Christmas. Our society has been so secularized that neither the words nor concepts of heaven or hell seem to have any affect on people any more. Second, Christ is missing at Christmas for many because of our fixation on the material world rather than the heavenly one.

Christmas has been hijacked by commercialism. Retailers love Christmas for the profits they earn and many people are now trapped in the expectations of [material] gift giving. Think of the conversations between people during December. They often ask one another, “Is your Christmas shopping done yet?” The importance of the true celebration has been reduced to the obligation of giving retail merchandise, which has nothing to do with the birth of Christ.

Being here at Ali Base has relieved you from the holiday rush and shielded you from the commercialism.

This desert home is a reminder that Jesus was born in an austere environment. His parents were peasants, his visitors were shepherds and sheep, but he was surrounded by angels who sang the sweet song: “Glory to God in



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu

highest heaven, on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.”

Wise men sought Him and found Him through the guidance of a mysterious star. They paid Him homage and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which symbolized kingship, divinity and mortality because He would have to die to save the world from all sins and evils.

Jesus was no threat to any one, but the rich and powerful wanted him dead. Jesus only wanted to teach the world the law of love: he healed the sick, fed the poor, cried with those who were sad. He was a friend to sinners and rejects but the religious authority conspired to persecute Him and nailed him to the Cross.

Before Jesus died He even prayed for those who killed Him.

Jesus was God’s greatest gift to the world at Christmas...the Bible said: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not die but will have eternal life.”

May you and yours have a Blessed Christmas and New Year. And may Jesus’ Peace and peaceful solutions be found in Iraq, in the world, in your home and your heart.

SECAF inspires, rejuvenates hundreds: offers pride in deployed Airmen, Iraqi's, jointness

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

It wasn't criterion used in planning the agenda, but every stop on Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne's itinerary for his visit here inspired him to comment on the cohesive nature of efforts and accomplishments: partnerships and ad hoc teams tackling enormous tasks, delivering magnificent results and feeding off each others' experience, success and diversity. The energy created by his visit, serving as firsthand recognition of Air and Space Expeditionary Force 7/8s tireless work, seemed to rebound between the visitors and hosts throughout the day.

"Ali Base truly represents the total force in action," said Secretary Wynne. "This is truly about jointness, the Coalition,



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne (right) listens to success stories in the training of Iraqi air force Squadron 23 (Transport) from 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Advisory Support Team Maintenance Commander Maj. Gerald McCray (back to camera). In formation to greet the Secretary are (from left) 777th EAS AST trainers Tech. Sgts. Mirko Sampson, John Furber and Chad Shipman.

and working with your brethren in the other services. [The Air Force] is really forming up to do business in the 21st Century and it all starts with [the Airmen] here."

Before meeting with Airmen assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group at a troop call the Secretary met with the Col. Samir, commander of the Iraq air force's Squadron 23 (Transport) —labeled as "the greatest success story in the training of the Iraqi air force" by Maj. Gen. Allen Peck, deputy combined forces air component commander, who accompanied the Secretary—to hear about cooperative successes between American and Iraqi's in moving toward returning Iraqi sovereign skies back into the hands of Iraqi's.

Colonel Samir (full names and faces of Iraqi air force members are non-releasable) described the relationship between the Iraqi air force members and Airmen from the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne hears and explanation of the force protection mission from Airman 1st Class Stephanie Geesey, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. Facing the camera, and listening intently, is Maj. Gen. Allen Peck, deputy combined forces air component commander.

Continued next page:

INSPIRED



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne congratulates Col. Samir, commander of Iraqi air force Squadron 23 (Transport), on the accomplishments of his squadron over the past year. The squadron flew its first solo mission (no advisory support team members from the 777th EAS on board) Nov. 29. Secretary Wynne called the accomplishments and the mission something that Iraqi's and their Air Force trainers can be proud of. The Secretary commemorated the visit with the gift of a coin to Colonel Samir. (Full names and faces of Iraqi airmen are not releasable.)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Touring the vehicle maintenance facility of the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron here, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne hears success stories from Chief Master Sgt. Howard Metcalf, 407th ELRS superintendent.

INSPIRED from previous page

Advisory Support team similar to that between brothers.

As the Iraqi colonel continued with accolades for the Airmen who helped the Iraqi air force's Squadron 23 (Transport) reach a milestone just weeks ago—maintaining, launching and flying an Iraqi C-130 without advisory support team assistance Nov. 29—Secretary Wynne added his praise for the efforts of all participants.

“Our differences are melting away,” Secretary Wynne told the colonel and the Airmen of the 777th EAS. “I give credit to [the colonel and his men] for stepping up and am very proud of the [advisory support team]. This is a very proud moment, especially the first all-Iraqi crew mission, you have made everybody proud.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne stopped by the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron compound where Lt. Col. Richard Houghton talked to the Secretary about the major improvements accomplished during the current rotation.

Continued next page:
INSPIRED



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne joined Airmen deployed with the 407th Air Expeditionary Group and 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron for a luncheon Dec. 19. The Secretary answered several questions from his hosts after the meal.

INSPIRED from previous page

Secretary Wynne freely shared the pride he feels toward the men and women of the Air Force with several groups of Airmen. He met and praised ground maintenance, aircraft maintenance, security forces, aircrew and civil engineer Airmen, listening intently to summaries of contributions made here and the contributions of air power and its support functions to the War on Terror.

"I'm here to pass along the pride of three groups: the people of Afghanistan, Iraq and those back home in the United States. We are all behind you," the Secretary said.

Secretary Wynne, traveling to Ali Base because he cares about deployed Airmen, seemed energized at the end of a day packed with good news—and a burst of festive caroling by Airmen from Ali Base. The back and forth transfer of smiles and positive gestures was unmistakable: the Secretary drew strength from those he came to bolster and those he came to bolster now have the little boost needed for

the last lap of the rotation.

And although timing for AEF 7/8 has meant being away from home for several widely recognized holidays, Secretary Wynne reminded Airmen of the things they will take from the experience.

"You have been here for what I call the 'miracle in Southwest Asia.' Look at all of the things that have happened [in Iraq] during your rotation," he said, referring to the constitutional referendum, the general election, and the first all-Iraqi solo flight (originating from this base and as a result of training conducted here).

"One day historians will be looking around asking what happened here during this time, and you are the ones who will be able to tell them.

"Your time here will go down in history.

You have done great things in this country that we have helped bring freedom to."

Before leaving Ali Base Secretary Wynne toured the Ziggurat of Ur and shared tea with the Iraqi curator.

It was the icing on the cake and a fitting end to a day the Secretary described as "incredible."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne praised the security forces operations at Ali Base after meeting with 407th Expeditionary Security Forces commander Maj. Joseph "Joe" Engelbrecht III and his team.

Special canines are guardians of the night

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Bolton

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

The story of teamwork, affection and loyalty was featured in news headlines, on the television news and was a topic on talk radio. Congress would have to pass legislation to allow the dog to retire early. Web sites are collecting signatures for petitions to get the process rolling. What's all the fuss? Are military working dogs so special?

The story of Tech. Sgt. Jamie Dana highlights the life and relationships between handlers and their military working dogs. But Sergeant Dana's story could just as easily have started with one of the teams assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Military working dogs here, and at Air Force bases all around the world, are just as cute, fuzzy and affectionate—with their handler—as any domesticated pooch. Many times the dogs may even seem docile to a casual passerby; but make no mistake, they are truly four-footed warriors. In this AOR they can be the enemy's worst nightmare.

The military working dog teams here provide first rate explosives and personnel detection at locations on and off the installation, providing continuous security to all Ali Base residents. Because of their greatly enhanced hearing and odor detecting abilities—the military working dog's greatest assets—teams routinely augment entry control security Airmen in the vehicle search area. A military working dog's sense of smell is about 10 times greater than humans, giving the 407th ESFS the upper hand

when searching for explosives, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices or Improvised Explosive Devices.

It's also common for the military working dogs and their handlers to be assigned patrol duties, to work at listening and observation posts, or to take on an assignment as part of a Random Antiterrorism Measure. Again, the dog's keen senses provide an edge while working at a listening or observation post. A military working dog can detect an intruder at distances greater than 200 meters in optimal

conditions. The teams have been working a lot of RAMs during the past couple of months. You may have seen them searching vehicles at the entrance to tent city or even walking around your work center.

Military working dogs receive extensive training at the Department of Defense's Dog Training School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. During the 10 – 12 week training course the dogs are taught basics skills

Continued next page:

GUARDIANS



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

The military working dog section of the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron includes (from left) Tech. Sgt. Jake Bolton and Kevin, Staff Sgt. Damon Tripp and Rexo, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Rebholz (kennel master), Staff Sgt. Carl Wolf and Kazan, Staff Sgt. James Ramondetta and Tnaja, Senior Airman Jeffrey Mastin and Frisko, Staff Sgt. Jassen Dongon (trainer), Staff Sgt. Tyreese McAllister and Ori, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sarabia and Basco.

"A military working dog can detect an intruder at distances greater than 200 meters in optimal conditions."

GUARDIANS

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needed to perform their duties once they get to their assigned duty station: basic obedience (down, sit, stay, heel, etc.), controlled aggression (attacking people), scouting (searching for people), and how to find explosives or narcotics. Once the dog has proven itself proficient they are shipped to their duty station where they will remain the entire career (other than deployments.)

Military working dogs and their handlers become best friends. Any handler will tell you the best part about their job is the companionship and rapport they have with their dog. It's bound to happen when you work, play, and sometimes even live together.

This emotional bond can be very strong as Sergeant Dana has shown the world. Sergeant Dana and her military working dog, Rex, were injured June 25 when their HMMWV was hit by an IED. Sergeant Dana was critically injured and nearly lost her life, but when she regained consciousness the first thing she asked was "Where's Rex?"

This article is a tribute to all of the military working dog teams here at Ali Base. Three of the noncommissioned officers will be moving into new positions after redeployment, ending military working dog handler duties: Tech. Sgt. Matthew Rebholz, Staff Sgts. Jassen Dongon and Jonathan Sarabia.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Rebholz assisted in the writing of this article.



Photos by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Rebholz, kennel master, (left) and Staff Sgt. Jassen Dongon, military working dog trainer, will assume new duties when they redeploy.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sarabia and Bosco. Sergeant Sarabia will be taking on new duties after redeployment.



Author unknown; tribute poem courtesy of 407th ESFS

Guardians of the Night

Trust in me my friend for I am your comrade.
I will protect you with my last breath.

When all others have left you
And the loneliness of the night closes in,
I will be at your side.

Together we will conquer all obstacles
And search out those who might wish harm to others.

All I ask of you is compassion,
The caring touch of your hands.
It is for you that I will selflessly give my life
And spend my nights unrested.

Although our days together
May be marked by the passing of the seasons.
Know that each day at your side is my reward.

My days are measured by
The coming and going of your footsteps.
I anticipate them at the opening of the door.
You are the voice of caring when I am ill.
The voice of authority over me when I've done wrong.

Do not chastise me unduly
For I am your right arm,
The sword at your side.
I attempt to do only what you bid of me.
I seek only to please you and remain in your favor.

Together you and I shall experience
A bond only others like you will understand.
When outsiders see us together
Their envy will be measured by their disdain.

I will quietly listen to you
And pass no judgment.
Nor will your spoken words be repeated.

I will remain ever silent,
Ever vigilant, ever loyal.
And when our time together is done
And you move on in the world,
Remember me with kind thoughts and tales.
For a time we were unbeatable,
Nothing passed among us undetected.
If we should ever meet again on another field
I will gladly take up your fight.
I am a Police Working Dog and together
We are Guardians of the Night.

Glimpses of the future:

SECAF visits Ali Base, communicates possibilities

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The world and the Air Force have gone through remarkable changes since newly appointed Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne hung up his Air Force uniform more than 30 years ago.

The enemies, tools to fight them, and tactics are all different.

But just six weeks into the job the Secretary visited Airmen deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to gauge the warrior spirit and offer insight into how he might ensure Airmen remain the best trained, most highly motivated and most committed members of the greatest air power in the world.

The secretary asked questions about mission capability and quality of life while listening intently to success stories from the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the Iraqi air force Squadron 23 (Transport.) And although he is still transitioning into a leadership position charged with global missions, a roster of almost three quarters of a million men and women, and billions of dollars in assets, the Secretary offered glimpses of future possibilities: deployments as part of the promotion process, the ongoing search for the "right" deployment length, continuing force shaping issues and enhanced communication options with home for deployed Airmen.

"Three months was simply too short," Secretary Wynne said of deployment lengths. He also noted that the current four month rotation that most Airmen are assigned isn't really a cut and dry 120 days when



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy A. Haase

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne answered questions at a troop call here Dec. 19. Airman 1st Class Grant Gers, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, asked the Secretary about the possibility of timing deployments so that holidays away from home are distributed more evenly.

pre-deployment training and advance transition coordination is added; however, any possibility of retiming rotation start dates to avoid Airmen missing too many "special dates" during a deployment could be a juggling act with so many different days being special to individual Airmen. The Secretary pointed out how multicultural the Air Force is: trying to time rotations so that Airmen holding one religious conviction don't miss important holidays would be offset by Airmen of another religion. Add to this the importance that others may place on birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Day, etc. and the problem becomes unsolvable, the Secretary said in reply to the question asked by Airman 1st Class

Grant Gers, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron.

Taking everything into consideration, balancing mission requirements, frequency of deployments and cost, "Maybe six months is the better and right number," said the Secretary, adding "But that's the best answer I can give after only six weeks [in office]."

The percentage of Airmen who deploy multiple times while others remain at home station is a hot issue for Secretary Wynne, who was able to address the issue after Senior Airman Jonathan Oakes, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, asked a deployment-related question.

Continued next page:

TROOP CALL



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne seemed more than happy to take a group photo with members of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Dec. 19.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Maj. Nicole Dye, 407th Air Expeditionary Group executive officer, escorts Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne into the Big Top for his scheduled Troop Call Dec. 19. The Secretary visited several bases involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom this week.

TROOP CALL from previous page

“Just as it’s natural to think that in the Navy a Sailor should spend a certain amount of time at sea, I think Airmen should spend a certain amount of time down range,” said the Secretary. “It gives [Airmen] a firm understanding of what’s going on and why [the Air Force and the current missions] are necessary.”

The Secretary also offered an analogy about a barrel of water with the spigot placed too high: only the water above the level of the spigot comes out—over and over again—the remainder never leaving the barrel regardless of how much water you add.

Somewhere between 30 and 40 percent of Airmen haven’t deployed, said Secretary Wynne.

“We need to move the spigot lower on the barrel and get more Airmen involved in deployments,” the Secretary said. He offered the possibility of lower-tasked Air Force Specialty Codes deploying in positions outside their career fields and noted that there’s a good



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne visited several shops, talking to Airmen and asking questions, during his visit Dec. 19. The Secretary is shaking hands with Master Sgt. Horace Johnson, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. Master Sgt. Preston New, 407th ELRS first sergeant, is waiting to meet the Secretary.

possibility that the promotion process may include deployment information in the future.

Whether in Iraq or elsewhere, one of the most important things during a deployment is an Airman’s ability to communicate with home, said the Secretary. It’s a quality of life issue that he’s very concerned about. Secretary Wynne is certain that network vulnerability issues now preventing access to popular Web based e-mail accounts can be overcome.

“We are more concerned with [cyber] tactical security than some. But we need to look not just at why we can’t offer the [Web e-mail] services but how we can change things and provide them,” Secretary Wynne said in reply to a question from Senior Airman Roshad Mays, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

The Secretary addressed the largest topic, force shaping issues, after a question from Senior Master Sgt. Darron Williams, 407th EOSS. The problem needs to be looked at in terms of a balance between talent and hardware, with the end result being a match between the people talent, planes and other hardware, said the Secretary. Today’s advanced fighting tools are more expensive and require less manpower to operate and maintain, he said.

But, “all of the cuts that you hear about aren’t just from the active duty,” he said. The Secretary pointed out that any force shaping is based on the total force: active, Guard, reserve and civilians. Likewise, any force shaping will be segmented across the same manpower spectrum.

Secretary Wynne seems poised to make sure the Air Force is fighting the appropriate fights with the proper tools, the best Airmen, and Airmen who are not only the best at what they do, but also the best taken care of.

SECAF: final frames



(Clockwise from the bottom) Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, his staff and some of his hosts at the Ziggurat of Ur; Col. Don Palandech, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander and the Secretary attend a briefing; the Secretary offers his respect and gratitude to an airmen with Iraqi air force Squadron 23 (Transport), Maj. Gerald McCray, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Advisory Support Team maintenance officer is with the Secretary; the Secretary, his staff and Colonel Palandech talk with Department of Defense linguist Samir "Sam" Abdallah.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean



Identify This



Do you know what this is?

If you can identify the object, e-mail the paper at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block by 3 p.m. Thursday Dec. 29.

All correct entries will be placed in a box and three winners will be randomly selected at Combat Bingo (at the Big Top) at 7:30 p.m., Friday Dec. 30.

Participants do not have to attend bingo to win.

Winners will receive a complimentary T-shirt or coin from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. The winners selected from those correctly identifying the CONEX latch pictured in the Dec. 9 *Ali Times* are: Capt. **Raymond Spohr** (ECS), Senior Airman **Jacob Mendow** (ESFS) and Airman 1st Class **Randall Patterson** (ECES).

Ammunition Amnesty Day

Thursday Dec. 29

10 a.m - 2 p.m.

PX parking lot

Anybody, any ammo,
any weapon, any contraband

issued/account items excluded

No questions asked!

407th AEG

Warrior of the Week



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Airman 1st Class Grant Gers

Unit:

407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Duty title:

Area Control Center air traffic controller

Home station:

436th Operations Support Squadron,
Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Why other warriors say he's a warrior:

"Airman 1st Class Gers is not only one of the hardest working airman that I have ever met but his knowledge of air traffic control and attention to detail make him a superior controller."

—Staff Sgt. Caroline Parker,

Area Control Center watch supervisor

Most memorable Air Force experience:

"Receiving my facility ratings in the greatest career field ever, air traffic control, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. After all the training and long days and hours, it felt incredible to be a certified controller and step up to the next tier with all the people that trained me. It was amazing."

Family:

"My family lives in Arizona. I have one older brother, Tanner, who is my hero. My parents, Tray and Simone, are amazing people and they motivate me everyday to do great things. My wife, Melinda, is one semester from graduating from Rowan University in New Jersey. She is my strength, my best friend, and the sweetest woman ever."

Hobbies:

"In my spare time I like to play golf as well as other sports. I am a big baseball fan and enjoy going with Melinda to Philly's games. We also love camping and skiing. Since I have been stationed on the East Coast I have tried to see as much of the sites as I can."

Serenity in the sand

faith-based services schedule

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group **Oasis of Peace** chapel, unless otherwise noted. The Oasis is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, or directions to worship locations, please call 445-2006.

FRIDAY

1 p.m., Muslim prayer/ service: (temporarily unav.)
6 p.m., Weekday Mass: Oasis
6:30 p.m., Jewish Service: Army Religious Activities Center (ARAC)
7 p.m., Bible Study: ARAC
7:30 p.m., Gospel choir rehearsal: Army Post Chapel (APC)
8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous: ARAC annex

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m., Catholic Confession: Oasis Office
6 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass: Oasis
7 p.m., Kick the Camel (quit smoking) club: ARAC

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m., Catholic Confession: Oasis Office; Traditional Protestant Service: APC
8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis; Church of Christ Service: ARAC
8:30 a.m., Contemporary Protestant Service: Sapper Chapel; Sunday School: APC
9:30 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service: Oasis
10 a.m., Contemporary Protestant Service: APC; , Latter Day Saints Service: ARAC
10:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Camp Cedar
1 p.m., Gospel Service: APC
7 p.m., Contemporary Worship Service: Oasis

SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

7:30 p.m., Contemporary Christian Service: Sapper Chapel
8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous: ARAC
MONDAY
6 p.m., Weekday Mass: Oasis
7 p.m., Protestant Bible Study: Sapper Chapel
7:30 p.m., Discipleship Bible study/fellowship: Oasis

TUESDAY

Noon, Alcoholics Anonymous: ARAC Annex
6 p.m., Weekday Mass: Oasis
8 p.m., Catholic Study: Oasis Annex; Combat Bible Study: ARAC

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m., Weekday Mass: Oasis
7 p.m., Spanish Bible Study: ARAC; Midweek Service Discussion: APC
7:30 p.m., Protestant Evening Service: APC; Mens Bible Study: APC
8 p.m., Purpose Driven Life Bible Study: Oasis Annex

THURSDAY

6 p.m., Weekday Mass: Oasis
6:30 p.m., Ladies Bible Study: ARAC
7 p.m., Latter Day Saints Study: ARAC
7:30 p.m., Workmans' Fellowship: RAC; A Man and His World Bible Study: Oasis

CRICKET MOVIE THEATER

at the Hot Spot

Today's times and movie descriptions for the week

Outrage (1998), 1 a.m., 3 p.m., Rob Lowe, Jennifer Grey, drama

Liberty Stands Still (2002), 3 a.m., 5 p.m., Tanya Allen, Ed Anders, drama

Hustle (2004), 5 a.m., 7 p.m., Tom Sizemore, dash Mihok, drama

In My Country (2004), 7 a.m., 9 p.m., Samuel L. Jackson, Juliette Binoche, drama

Robots (2005), 9 a.m., 11 p.m., Paula Abdul, Halle Berry (voices), animation/comedy

A Good Night To Die (2003), 11 a.m., Michael Rapaport, Gary Stretch, action/comedy

The Cat In The Hat (2003), 1 p.m., Mike Myers, Alec Baldwin, adventure/comedy

Big Top Premiers (See Bedrock Schedule): **Flightplan, The Man, The Family Stone**

Saturday

A Good Night To Die .. 1 a.m.
Flight Plan 3 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat 5 a.m.
Outrage 7 a.m.
Liberty Stands Still 9 a.m.
Hustle 11 a.m.
In My Country 1 p.m.
Robots 3 p.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 5 p.m.
Flight Plan 7 p.m.
The Cat In The Hat 9 p.m.
Outrage 11 p.m.

Sunday

Liberty Stands Still 1 a.m.
Hustle 3 a.m.
In My Country 5 a.m.
Robots 7 a.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 9 a.m.
Flight Plan 11 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat 1 p.m.
Outrage 3 p.m.
Liberty Stands Still 5 p.m.
Hustle 7 p.m.
Robots 9 p.m.
In My Country 11 p.m.

Monday

Hustle 1 a.m.
The Man 3 a.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 5 a.m.
The Family Stone 7 a.m.
Flight Plan 9 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat .. 11 a.m.
Outrage 1 p.m.
Liberty Stands Still 3 p.m.
Hustle 5 p.m.
Robots 7 p.m.
In My Country 9 p.m.
The Man 11 p.m.

Tuesday

A Good Night To Die .. 1 a.m.
The Family Stone 3 a.m.
Flight Plan 5 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat 7 a.m.
Outrage 9 a.m.
Liberty Stands Still ... 11 a.m.
Hustle 1 p.m.
Robots 3 p.m.
In My Country 5 p.m.
The Man 7 p.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 9 p.m.
The Family Stone 11 p.m.

Wednesday

Flight Plan 1 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat 3 a.m.
Outrage 5 a.m.
Liberty Stands Still 7 a.m.
Hustle 9 a.m.
Robots 11 a.m.
In My Country 1 p.m.
The Man 3 p.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 5 p.m.
The Family Stone 7 p.m.
Flight Plan 9 p.m.
The Cat In The Hat .. 11 p.m.

Thursday

Robots 1 a.m.
In My Country 3 a.m.
The Man 5 a.m.
A Good Night To Die .. 7 a.m.
The Family Stone 9 a.m.
Flight Plan 11 a.m.
The Cat In The Hat 1 p.m.
Outrage 3 p.m.
Liberty Stands Still 5 p.m.
Hustle 7 p.m.
The Family Stone 9 p.m.
Flight Plan 11 p.m.

Bedrock and beyond...

activities to keep you fit, happy and hungry for more

Today

5 p.m., **Tang Soo Do**: Muscle Beach (I)
 6:30 p.m., **Spin**: Muscle Beach (I)
 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: Muscle Beach (I)
 7:30 p.m., **Bingo**: Big Top
 8 p.m., **Dominoes**: ARC
 8 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: HOP
 9 p.m., **"Flightplan,"** (2005); Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard; action/adventure: Big Top

Saturday

9 a.m., **Horseshoe TNY**: Bedrock Pits
 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., **Volleyball Games**: Bedrock Courts
 1 p.m., **3 on 3 Basketball TNY**: Bedrock Courts
 2:30 p.m., **Pilates**: Muscle Beach (DVD)
 5:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)
 7 p.m., **Video Game TNYs**: ARC
 8:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)

Sunday

noon, **Tae Kwon Do**: Muscle Beach (I)
 2 p.m., **"The Man,"** (2005); Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy; action/comedy: Big Top
 2:30 p.m., **Pilates**: Muscle Beach (DVD)
 4 p.m., **"The Family Stone,"** (2005); Claire Danes, Diane Keaton; comedy/drama: Big Top
 6 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do**: HOP
 7 p.m., **Karaoke**: Big Top

Monday

3 p.m., **Horseshoe TNY**: Bedrock Courts
 5 p.m., **Tang Soo Do**: Muscle Beach (I)
 6:30 p.m., **Spin**: Muscle Beach (I)
 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: Muscle Beach (I)
 8 p.m., **Ping Pong**: ARC
 8 p.m., **Ping Pong**: Hot Spot
 8 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: HOP

Tuesday

2:30 p.m., **Yoga**: Muscle Beach (DVD)
 5:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)
 6 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do**: HOP
 8 p.m., **8-Ball**: Big Top
 8 p.m., **Scrabble TNY**: ARC
 8:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)

Wednesday

8 a.m., **Benchpress Competition**: Muscle Beach
 10 a.m., **Top 3**: Chapel Annex

2:30 p.m., **Pilates**: Muscle Beach (DVD)
 5:30 p.m., **Focus 5-6**: Chapel Annex
 6 p.m., **3-point Shootout**: Bedrock Courts
 6:30 p.m., **Spin**: Muscle Beach (I)
 6:30 p.m., **First Four**: Chapel Annex
 7 p.m., **Jeopardy**: Big Top
 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: Muscle Beach (I)
 8 p.m., **Spades TNY**: ARC
 8 p.m., **Step Aerobics**: HOP

Thursday

9:30 a.m., **Tae Kwon Do**: Muscle Beach (I)
 5:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)
 6 p.m., **Cardio mix**: HOP
 8 p.m., **8-Ball**: ARC
 8 p.m., **5-Card Draw**: Big Top
 8:30 p.m., **Absolute Abs**: Muscle Beach (I)

(I)—Instructor

TNY—Tournament

HOP—House of Pain, Army Fitness Center

ARC—Army Recreation Center

Holiday Planner...

Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m., Christmas Combat Bingo and a movie, all prizes gift wrapped-winner's choice: Big Top

Dec. 24, Movies- 10 a.m. (*A Christmas Carol*), noon (*Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas*), 2 p.m. (*The Santa Clause*), 4 p.m. (*The Santa Clause 2*): Big Top

Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m., Protestant Candlelight Service: Oasis Chapel

Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve in the Courtyard, Army MWR Courtyard/Adder Common—pageant, Christmas stories, tree lighting, carols, chaplain's message, units are welcome to take unit ornament for the tree

Dec. 24, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Hip Hop and games: Big Top

Dec. 24, 11:30 p.m., Catholic Mass: Big Top

Dec. 25, faith-based services according to regularly published schedule except the Protestant Contemporary Worship Service: change to 4 p.m. this day only.

Dec. 25, 7 p.m., Christmas caroling and play ("The Plight Before Christmas," holiday/comedy), hot chocolate, cider, cookies and prizes: Big Top

Dec. 31 (Saturday), 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., New Year's Party, Casino Night and Dance (party favors and sparkling cider at midnight): Big Top

Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Protestant WatchNight Service: Army Chapel

Jan. 1, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., movies; 7 p.m., karaoke: Big Top

Jan. 1, Faith-based services according to regular schedule.